

Hetton Urban District Council.



**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1947.


L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Council Chambers,

Hetton-le-Hole.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith present my Seventh Annual Report, being for the year 1947, on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the district. In this report is included that of the Sanitary Inspector.

Whilst progress was made in the provision of new houses much yet remains to be done, the ultimate size of the problem depending on factors outwith our control which make it impossible to give any accurate final estimate of the number of houses which will be required or will be permitted to be built.

I would tender to Councillors and staff my sincere appreciation and gratitude for loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

These are the same as in 1941, excepting that an additional fully-trained Nurse is now employed at the Isolation Hospital; the staff consisting therefore of Matron and Two Nurses.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—4527 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1947—18,920.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to rate Books—
4,989.

Rateable Value—£63,580.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£228.73.

Social Conditions and Chief Industries.

The chief industry in the district is coal mining. Male unemployment remained low in 1947. Female unemployment made an apparent increase due to married women being released from war work and undertaking their own domestic duties only.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1947 was 436 as compared with 365 for 1946.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births					
{	Legitimate	425	222	200	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated populat'n 23.04
	Illegitimate	11	7	4	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 20.5 for 1947

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1947, compared with the years 1938—1946.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1938	393	200	193	20.10	161
1939	355	183	172	18.34	153
1940	328	160	160	17.53	98
1941	319	157	162	17.53	109
1942	367	177	190	20.80	170
1943	339	173	166	13.62	127
1944	415	213	202	23.13	237
1945	377	201	176	20.65	185
1946	365	176	189	19.24	171
1947	436	229	207	23.04	215

Still Births—During 1947 there were 3 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births					
{	Legitimate	3	2	1	} giving a Rate of 6.83 per 1000 total (live & still births) births
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.158 in the district as compared with 0.50 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 221 residents in the Hetton Urban District died, being 120 males and 101 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.68, the population being estimated at 18,920. That for England and Wales was 12.0.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1947 there were 166 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 92 males and 74 females. Of these 3 males and 1 female did not normally reside in the area, therefore 89 males and 73 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 31 males and 28 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers is 221, being 120 males and 101 females.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1947, 20 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 9.04 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 59 residents who died outside the district, 4 died in a private house. The remaining 55 died in institutions as follows:

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	17
Children's Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	3
Heath House, Houghton-le-Spring	...	...	7
Eye Infirmary, Sunderland	...	...	1
Leeholme, Easington	...	...	1
Hosp. for Infectious Diseases, Sunderland			2
Princess Mary Maternity Hosp., Newcastle			1
Relton House, Chester-le-Street	...	...	17
Dryburne Emergency Hospital, Durham			1
Cherry Knowle Emergency Hospital, Ryhope			1
Monkwearmouth & Southwick Hosp., Sunderland			1
Seaham Hall Sanatorium, Seaham	...	...	1
Hallan Hospital, West Bromwich...	...	...	1
Shotley Bridge Hospital, Consett	...	...	1

No resident in the district died in the Rainton Bridge Hospital, therefore of the total 221 deaths of residents, 55 or 24.88 per cent. occurred in Institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list).

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis but one from other puerperal causes.

The following Comparative Figures are available for England and Wales:

Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)			
births from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0.16
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)			
births from Other Puerperal Causes			0.85
Notifications Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia			
per 1000 total Births (live and still)			
England and Wales	...	...	7.16
Hetton Urban District	...	...	6.83

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

16 children died during 1947 before attaining the age of one year, being 8 legitimate males, 7 legitimate females, and 1 illegitimate female.

During 1946, 14 children died during this age period.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1938-47.

	All Infants		Legitimate Infants		Illegitimate Infants	
	per 1000 live births		per 1000 legitimate live births		per 1000 illegitimate live births	
1938	...	83.9	...	83.9	...	—
1939	...	36.3	...	37.0	...	—
1940	...	80.9	...	76.1	...	250.0
1941	...	59.00	...	58.64	...	83.33
1942	...	49.05	...	50.70	...	—
1943	...	62.21	...	58.61	...	133.33
1944	...	62.65	...	60.45	...	111.11
1945	...	45.09	...	41.09	...	166.66
1946	...	38.35	...	40.34	...	—
1947	...	36.69	...	35.29	...	90.90

The death rate of children under one year of age per 1000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1947, was 41.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows :

Easington Lane	5637
Hetton	5135
Hetton Downs	5941
Rainton and Moorsley	2207
	<hr/>
	18,920
	<hr/>

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is :

Easington Lane	0.70
Hetton	1.36
Hetton Downs	0.33
Rainton and Moorsley	1.35

Of the 16 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was in 4 cases due to prematurity and debility, giving a percentage of 25.0 due to this cause. Three or 18.75% of the total deaths under one year were due to pneumonia.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1947, and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz— 6 under one week, 1 between 1 and 2 weeks, 0 between 2 and 3 weeks, 0 between 3 and 4 weeks, 2 between 1 and 3 months, 4 between 3 months and 6 months, 2 between 6 months and 9 months, and 1 between 9 months and 12 months, a total of 16.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 221, 7.23 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 37.5 per cent. were under one week.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 m'nths	3 months and under 6 m'nths	6 months and under 9 m'nths	9 months and under 12 m'nths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	Certified ...	5	1	...	...	6	2	4	2	1	15
	Uncertified	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	..	1
Small-pox ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Meningitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...		1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Laryngitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)		...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Diarrhoea ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Gastritis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Syphilis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Mal'format'ns		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...		2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Influenza ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes ...		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
		6	1	...	...	7	2	4	2	1	16

Nett Live Births— Legitimate

Males Females

Illegitimate

Males Females

Corrected as per Registrar General ... } 222 203 7 4 = 436

Nett Deaths ... 8 7 0 1 = 16

During 1947 there were 191 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners, 9 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem), 3 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest, 6 by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest and 12 uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Easington Lane	18	15	12	11	56
Hetton	21	10	16	26	73
Hetton Downs	16	14	15	23	68
Rainton & M'rsle	9	7	4	4	24
Totals	64	46	47	64	221

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Easington Lane	4	2	...	...	1	3	17	19	10	56
Hetton	7	...	1	1	3	6	19	10	26	73
Hetton Downs	2	...	1	1	1	5	16	21	21	68
Rainton and Moorsley	3	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	14	24
Total	16	2	2	2	6	15	54	53	71	221

During the year under consideration there were three deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1000 population from this cause of 0.15.

There were three deaths from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), giving a death rate of 6.88 per 1000 live births compared with 5.8 for England and Wales.

In 1946 there was 1 death from the chief zymotic diseases, equivalent to a death rate of 0.05 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

No. of Deaths in Hetton Urban District

Population 1947—18,920.

Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs	Total
1938	232	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	5
1939	202	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	1	8
1940	230	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1941	210	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	7
1942	197	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
1943	212	0	0	2	0	2	3	2	3	12
1944	178	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	7
1945	192	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	8
1946	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1947	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

Death Rates in Hetton Urban District per 1000 population
as compared with those for England and Wales

Hn—Hetton Urban Dist.; EW—England and Wales.

All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd Fevers			Smallpox			Measles			Scarlet Fev.			Whooping Cough			Diphtheria			Influenza																											
Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW	Hn EW Hn EW Hn EW																													
11.9 11.6 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.05 0.04	0.00 0.01 0.00	0.03 0.10 0.07	0.05 0.11	11.9 11.6 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.05 0.04	0.00 0.01 0.00	0.03 0.10 0.07	0.05 0.11	12.03 12.1 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.05 0.01	0.05 0.03	0.10 0.05	0.15 0.21	14.05 14.3 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.02 0.00	0.00 0.02 0.05	0.06 0.07	0.05 0.19	11.54 12.9 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.16 0.03	0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.02 0.11	0.05 0.09	12.08 12.1 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.11 0.02	0.00 0.11 0.03	0.11 0.37	9.92 11.6 0.05 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.01 0.00	0.00 0.03 0.11	0.02 0.05	0.12 10.52 11.4 0.05 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.10 0.02	0.00 0.00 0.02	0.05 0.08	10.22 11.5 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.02 0.00	0.01 0.05	0.15 11.68 12.0 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.01 0.00	0.00 0.02 0.00	0.00 0.01	0.00 0.09

Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1947.

Causes of Death.					Male		Female
All Causes	...	...	...	...	120	...	101
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	3	...	8
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
11. Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Male)	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Uterus (Female)	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	6	...	5
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
16. Cancer, all other sites	...	...	...	...	10	...	5
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
18. Intra Cranial Vasular Lesions	...	...	...	...	18	...	7
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	31	...	32
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	12	...	8
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	...	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	2	...	3
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2	...	—
32. Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	4	...	5
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	...	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	3	...	1
36. All other causes	...	...	...	...	13	...	11

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1947, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with Hetton-le-Hole.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases for the year 1947.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

				England & Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resid't populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Admin- istrative County.	Hetton Urban District.
				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS—								
Live	...	...	...	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	23.04
Still	...	...	...	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.158
DEATHS—								
All Causes	...	...	...	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	11.68
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Influenza	...	...	...	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	41	47	36	37	36.69
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	}			5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	6.88
NOTIFICATIONS—				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.15
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	0.95
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	3.48
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.68
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Measles	...	...	...	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	17.86
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	1.63
				Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
(a) NOTIFICATIONS—								
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	}						6.94	0.15

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85

ABORTION: Mortality per million Women aged 15-45
England and Wales:

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis
9	5

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 11 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1947 being equivalent to a death rate per 1000 population, of 0.58 from the pulmonary form and 0.15 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District	No. of Deaths from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District
1938	12	.53	.62	5	.16	.26
1939	11	Not available	.57	2	Not available	.14
1940	13	Not available	.70	3	Not available	.16
1941	7	.601	.38	0	.127	.00
1942	10	Not available	.56	3	Not available	.17
1943	9	.557	.51	4	.111	.22
1944	9	.524	.50	2	.103	.11
1945	6	.519	.32	1	.100	.05
1946	13	Not available	.68	1	Not available	.05
1947	11	.470	.58	3	.079	.15

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years the chief cause of death throughout the area. 63 persons, being 31 males and

32 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 28.50 per cent. of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.32 per 1000 population.

Unfortunately heart disease is very frequently caused by rheumatism or St. Vitus dance, whilst in other cases the heart may be damaged following pneumonia. The importance of care and supervision after these illnesses cannot be sufficiently stressed.

Comparative Table :

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		M	F		All Causes	Heart Disease	
1938	232	53	33	20	11.9	2.72	22.85
1939	202	42	24	18	10.5	2.18	20.79
1940	230	42	20	22	12.33	2.25	18.26
1941	210	43	20	23	11.55	2.31	20.48
1942	197	33	19	14	11.16	1.87	16.77
1943	212	42	20	22	12.08	2.4	19.81
1944	178	34	20	14	9.92	1.89	17.1
1945	192	41	24	17	10.52	2.24	21.35
1946	194	56	27	29	10.22	2.95	28.86
1947	221	63	31	32	11.68	3.32	28.50

Cancer.

28 deaths — being 17 males and 11 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 12.66 per cent. of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 1.47 per 1000 population.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Hetton Urban District and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1938—1947.

Year	Number of Deaths					Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male		Female		Total	
1938	18	...	17	...	35	1.80
1939	13	...	16	...	29	1.50
1940	15	...	17	...	32	1.71
1941	14	...	11	...	25	1.37
1942	14	...	13	...	27	1.53
1943	11	...	19	...	30	1.70
1944	12	...	10	...	22	1.22
1945	15	...	18	...	33	1.80
1946	13	...	9	...	22	1.15
1947	17	...	11	...	28	1.47

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1947 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site.	Males—Ages.	Site.	Females—Ages.
Lung—	60	Stomach—	86, 78, 70, 53
Colon—	81, 79	Breast—	68
Stomach—	83, 68, 71, 64, 62, 60	Colon—	75, 61, 59
Rectum—	80, 77	Liver—	68
Prostate—	78	Lung—	59
Pancreas—	65	Bladder—	69
Caecum—	38		
Pharynx—	52		
Rodent Ulcer—	84		
Scapula—	78		

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

See commencement of Report.

Development or changes in the following Services.

Laboratory Facilities.

As before.

Ambulance Facilities.

As before.

Nursing in the Home.

As before.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no change in the services provided, all being maintained and administered by the County Council.

Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.

There is no change in the services provided.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Urban District was supplied during 1947 with water from four sources, the principal source of supply being from the Council's water undertaking, this normally serving the whole of the Hetton Downs, Hetton and Easington Lane Wards. However, as has been the case in recent years, and despite the fact that delivery from this source was 2,500,000 gals. more than in 1946, it was necessary to supplement this supply by water obtained from a connection to the Sunderland and South Shields water main at Rainton Bridge, 20,000,000 gallons being obtained from this source during the year under review. This water was used to serve the Council's Housing Estates and, as it was much softer generally than the local supply, proved a great boon to occupiers. It is a possibility however that the future may show defects in water pipes and fittings which were originally installed for the local hard water but which are now being used for the circulation of softer water. Any maintenance work made necessary in this direction, however, can only compare more than favourably with the heavy costs entailed by the frequent cleaning of boilers and pipes caused by the use of the local water.

Water supplied by the Council's own undertaking is drawn from limestone strata at a considerable depth below the surface and, although hard, it is unlikely to receive any contamination. Frequent samples are submitted for bacteriological examination and the reports of analysts made from time to time confirm the purity of the supply. In addition, before reaching the consumer, the water is chlorinated by chloramine treatment which can be stepped up if contamination of any kind were suspected.

The estimated population supplied was 18,270; supply being in all cases direct to the house from the public water main. The average daily consumption per head per day was 20 gallons. The quality has been generally satisfactory. 16 samples were taken by the surveyor's department, and submitted for bacteriological analysis, two being unsatisfactory and three suspicious. In each case subsequent analysis

proved that any contamination had cleared up. Chemical analysis again showed the water to be very pure organically with a pH value of 7.4, and a total hardness of 64°/65°. (Permanent hardness 36°-40°).

The Moorsley District is supplied by the Colliery Company with spring water which is collected in a reservoir situated at Low Moorsley and pumped from there to a reservoir at High Moorsley to obtain a sufficient head. It is, owing to the fact that it is collected from springs at surface level, very susceptible to contamination and therefore frequent samples are taken at least every fortnight by the staff of the Health Department and the National Coal Board chemist also takes frequent samples. By this means, any variations in the purity are quickly noted and dealt with, but the series of samples taken during the year show that generally speaking the purity and quality of this water is now stable, and an adequate, wholesome supply is available throughout the year. This water has for some years been treated by chlorination but the method in use is somewhat haphazard and not always to be relied upon. Since the supply came under the control of the National Coal Board negotiations for improvement, which were originally instituted with the Colliery Company, have continued and a considerable amount of work was carried out during 1947 to improve the quality and quantity of the supply. Additional feeders were opened out and after exhaustive tests had been made regarding their purity they were connected into the collecting reservoir and consequently appreciably augmented the supply. To deal with this increase the High Reservoir, which has been suspected as a cause of contamination for many years and also was in bad structural condition and leaking, was completely reconstructed giving an increase in storage capacity and providing a storage tank which presented no difficulty in cleansing. The distribution of the supply also received attention. The mains originally consisted of small bore iron pipes very near the surface and in some cases actually exposed to the action of frost during the winter months. Furthermore, the greater number of the houses were served only by standpipes which were few in number and made it necessary for householders to travel unreasonable distances to obtain water. During severe weather it was common for the supply to be frozen up for prolonged periods, and the occupiers were forced to use a spring in the fields to obtain their water. The collecting chamber of this spring was badly constructed and generally full of rubbish and it was also exposed to and habitually used by cattle. Despite the ever present danger of fouling, which made it necessary to keep this spring under constant observation, periodical samples of water which were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination showed that, surprisingly enough, this water was generally quite pure and wholesome. The method of distribution was, however, thoroughly overhauled and the mains were, where necessary, renewed, larger size pipes being used, giving an improvement in pressure. The scheme was modified to some extent as it was felt that as a large proportion of the houses in High and Low Moorsley were subject to Clearance Orders made 10 years ago, and in fact should have been demolished long since, no elaborate improvements were desirable, but in streets which were served only by stand-pipes the number of these was increased and some were moved to more convenient positions. In houses in First and Second Row and Front Street, Moorsley, which were the property of the National Coal Board and which were unlikely to be condemned, inside water-supply was provided with scullery sinks and drains extended to take the wastes therefrom.

The Rainton Ward is supplied by water from the Durham County Water Board mains. Here again this water is much softer than local water and has given rise to few complaints. Samples are taken at least once monthly and submitted for bacteriological examination and although isolated cases of unsatisfactory results occurred, these were met by flushing the mains in the portion of the district affected and check samples gave satisfactory results. No complaints had to be made regarding inadequacy of supply from this source as since the repair of the booster pump which is necessary to lift water to the higher portions of this ward an adequate supply has been maintained.

A small group of houses at Rainton Bridge obtains its supply from spring water which is piped through to them from a collecting chamber in an adjacent field, and certain of the farms also have independent supplies which are maintained by the National Coal Board. All these supplies are periodically sampled and the results obtained were generally satisfactory.

Samples taken for bacteriological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle. As these examinations are made free of charge the cost of sampling is considerably reduced and samples are taken from all supplies at least once monthly throughout the area and more frequently if the supply is suspected. Samples for chemical analysis are taken at least every three months, these examinations being made by the Council's analyst, W. G. Carey, Esq. The number of samples submitted by the Department during the year for bacteriological examination totalled 52 and in addition 4 samples for chemical examination were also taken. These figures do not include samples taken by the Surveyor's Department from the Council's own water undertaking or samples taken by the National Coal Board's Chemist from those portions of the supply for which they are responsible.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage system throughout the district has been well maintained, although in certain portions of the area faults in sewers, mainly due to mining subsidence will have to be dealt with before further privy conversions can be carried out.

The sewers throughout the district, with one exception, all drain to the Glebe Works at Rainton Bridge. This installation is of modern construction having been completed in 1937 and it continued to function satisfactorily during the year.

The few houses left in Middle Rainton, following a fairly comprehensive Slum Clearance programme, all drain into a ditch next the Meadows Colliery. There are some water-closets installed in these houses and when the ditch becomes silted up and there is a restricted flow owing to dry weather, this method of sewerage disposal is a source of complaint from time to time. As the houses affected are old and in the majority of cases sub-standard, and, in fact, might reasonably have been dealt with under the Slum Clearance Scheme which eliminated the remainder of this small village, the installation of an elaborate sewerage system would hardly appear to be justified at the present time, especially as pumping would be necessary, and the improvement of this system to eliminate complaints as far as possible received attention during the year.

Work on the laying of new soil and surface water sewers for 174 houses on the Prospect Estate, Easington Lane, was well in hand at the end of the year.

It was necessary during the year to clear a number of choked sewers. In most cases stoppages were caused by the introduction of objects foreign to sewers or gradual silting up with coal-dust.

It has been found from experience that the installation of water-closets invariably has a beneficial effect upon sewers which have in the past been subject to obstruction. This is due to the fact that the majority of the back streets in the district are unmade and as a very large percentage of householders obtain their coals by the load and these are dumped on the back street, there has always been the tendency for sewers to become obstructed by coal-dust and grit from the street surface, and the additional flushing which water-closets provide is without doubt very helpful in preventing this silting up, which has been found in many cases, if allowed to accumulate, to leave a hard deposit, almost one might say, of the consistency of concrete, which necessitated the renewal of pipes affected.

During 1947 it was necessary to serve 28 informal notices with respect to defects in house drainage and despite current difficulties in obtaining labour and materials these were all remedied more or less promptly. In no case was it necessary to follow up the informal notice by a statutory notice. It was also necessary to serve 15 informal notices in respect of defects in water-closets and these had all been complied with at the end of the year.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1947 the numbers of each type of convenience in use in the district were as follows:—

Water-closets	...	...	...	4103
Ash-closets	...	...	...	1262
Ash-pit privies	...	...	...	17

Sixteen ash-closets were converted into water-closets and five ash-closets were demolished under Slum Clearance Schemes in conjunction with the building which they served. The sixteen conversions above mentioned were carried out by owners (generally owner-occupiers), the Council subsidising the work to the extent of one half of the contract price prevailing in 1939 namely £3 11s. 6d. There is no doubt, considering current costs, that this payment is quite inadequate, as the average privy conversion nowadays, especially when carried out individually, is costing in the region of £27 0s. 0d. There is evidence of a very definite desire by a large number of residents in the district to obtain conversions and numerous enquiries were received during the year regarding this. In many cases, however, the work was not carried out as the applicants found the cost prohibitive. It is gratifying to note that this interest has extended to owners of rented property also and failing the possibility of carrying out a comprehensive scheme as in pre-war days it is felt that as much encouragement as possible should be given to owners to carry out the improvements themselves, and for this reason the question of an increase in the subsidy was given consideration towards the end of the year under review, and it was decided to increase this to £10 0s. 0d. The additional incentive given by the increase in the subsidy should have a marked effect upon the number of conversions carried out by owners in the coming year. Where conversions are carried out by owners the work is executed under the direct supervision of the Health Department and the use of satis-

factory fittings and the following of a proper specification is thereby ensured.

The Council continued with their efforts to obtain sanction for a general scheme of conversions. A small scheme comprising some 178 conversions in the Hetton Downs area had been put forward for consideration towards the end of 1945. The majority of the houses affected were owned by the National Coal Board and following discussions between their representatives and the Department they agreed to a scheme to convert these closets by easy stages, they were, in fact, prepared to carry out the work on the Council's behalf. Application was made for a grant towards the scheme, as prior to the war the main schemes of privy conversions were carried out with the assistance of Unemployment Grants, 75% of the Council's half of the cost being obtained, and as a result, the consequent burden on the local rate payers was negligible. The Ministry, however, informed the Council that no funds were available for the purpose of providing a grant and the cost of the works carried out will therefore fall upon the owners and the local rate fund. Despite this the Council decided to proceed with the scheme and the matter was placed before the Ministry on several occasions, and had been the subject of deputations from the Council, without any concrete result until towards the end of the year progress was made, and the sanction to proceed has eventually been received from the Ministry which will permit the execution of this work during 1948.

Further sections of the scheme have already been prepared in order that the work, once commenced, may proceed without undue delays until all outstanding conversions are dealt with, but the delays which have been experienced are unfortunate in as much as at the time the scheme was first mooted the necessary materials were readily available, but the position with regard to the supply of these has deteriorated considerably since. Furthermore by arrangement with the Colliery Company and subsequently the National Coal Board it was proposed to carry out the conversions in conjunction with works of street paving, and it would be undesirable to proceed with the paving work in view of the fact that it would have to be disturbed at some time in the near future to carry out the conversions. The result has been that in many cases both schemes were held up, although, unfortunately, in some streets flagged footpaths were laid down which will, in due course, have to be taken up again.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This work is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, 6 motors and 15 men being employed for the purpose. In addition to our own staff it has also been found necessary to hire a horse and cart which is engaged on an average 21 hours per week to deal with certain isolated or inaccessible premises which it would not be possible to cleanse with a motor vehicle.

The majority of the vehicles in use were old and during recent years had given increasing trouble from breakdowns. It was, therefore, decided to place an order for three 10 cubic yard Karrier C.K.3 vehicles, the first of which was delivered in the Autumn of 1947. Delivery of the remaining two vehicles was effected early in 1948, and as it was decided to place an order for a further vehicle (7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam) there is little doubt that for the next few years the district will be served with modern vehicles in good running condition.

Despite the age of the vehicles and difficulties in obtaining spare parts it was possible to more or less systematically overhaul the fleet when necessary and maintain them in good running condition with a reasonably economical performance.

Repairs are carried out at the depot by the Council's mechanic and as only one man is employed for this work, and as he is also driver of the fever ambulance and responsible for the general supervision and maintenance of the depot, the amount of work done was noteworthy, as it included in recent years even bodywork and re-painting, it being found almost impossible to get this type of work done by outside firms in a reasonable time. The majority of bodies in use during the year had been almost entirely reconstructed in this manner and all have had at some time repairs or modifications carried out.

All the refuse is disposed of by tipping which is controlled where the situation and the supply of soil available made this possible. Three tips were in use for this purpose. Those mainly used are situated at the Hazard Colliery in the Hetton Ward and at Bull Wells in the Hetton Downs Ward. The third tip situated at the Gill in Easington Lane Ward is now little used except by the horse and cart, and the tipping space here is now in any case restricted.

A large percentage of the refuse is utilised by farmers for reclaiming land and making good damage caused by Colliery subsidence to fields, and this demand is likely to continue in the future. Whilst in many cases disposing of refuse in this manner causes an extended lead for tipping it helps to conserve the regular tips, and is of great assistance to farmers in the very necessary task of food production.

Considerable tipping space is still available at the two main tips and further tips are readily available if necessary. The tips are regularly inspected for rat infestation and are systematically treated to keep down vermin. As previously stated, control is exercised so far as the supply of suitable material will allow and every effort is made to tip in shallow layers to avoid a steep tipping face, thus reducing the risk of fire. Little trouble in this respect was experienced during the year under review. The salvage scheme has eliminated from the refuse a large proportion of the inflammable waste material which was once commonly found in refuse, and although occasional fires have occurred at the Hazard tip it has always been possible to get these under control. Salvage has also to a large extent eliminated tins and empty containers from the refuse. These are always a source of trouble on a tip as they readily corrode and finally collapse, causing subsidence in the tip surface and their absence from the refuse greatly helps better consolidation of the tip. The greatest nuisance experienced on the tips is the promiscuous dumping of rubbish of all kinds by unauthorised persons, generally builders. Despite warning notices this practice is prevalent and difficult to check, and whilst it is obvious that rubbish of this nature has to be disposed of somewhere and there would be no great objection to the use of the tips for this purpose if they were used in the proper way, haphazard dumping such as this makes it very difficult to keep the tips tidy.

The scheme for the renewal of ashbins, which came into being in 1936, was continued during the year despite difficulties which were experienced in obtaining supplies of suitable bins. It was possible however to supply 83 ashbins under this scheme during 1947. The continuance of the scheme is very desirable as it has been possible to

obtain a standardised refuse receptacle throughout the district and the unsuitable collection of boxes and various containers which were once used for household refuse have been completely eliminated. A stock of 24" x 18" galvanised ashbins of substantial construction is always maintained and when an intimation is served on the owner requiring the installation of a new bin he is at the same time given the opportunity of purchasing one from the Council at a reasonable price. The price has varied considerably in recent years owing to increasing costs, it being raised towards the end of the year under review to 16s. 0d., this still being below the retail price of a similar article in the shops and yet leaving a margin of profit to the Council for handling and administrative expenses. It has been found from experience that where owners are left to provide their own ashbins there is always the possibility that bins of inadequate size are installed which require emptying more frequently than the usual routine visits of the scavengers permit, and therefore the standardisation brought about by the scheme is important.

A large part of the district still has to depend upon ash-pits and ash-closets for the reception of refuse, but it is hoped in the course of time to obtain the abolition of the former and the conversion of the latter. When this stage is reached it should be possible to make the provision of ashbins a rate charge and the renewal of the defective bin an automatic action on the part of the department.

The number of premises which were being dealt with by the Scavenging Department at the end of 1947 was 5,691, the approximate average cost per house, per annum for this service being £1.038. It is anticipated in view of the number of Council houses in course of building and projected that in the near future the number of premises to be dealt with will be considerably augmented. These were up to the end of the year dealt with without further increase in staff or plant but there is no doubt that in due course this matter will have to receive consideration particularly having regard to the fact that the layout of the modern Council houses has resulted in bins having to be carried a considerably increased distance. In the year under review, as labour and overhead charges remained more or less stationary, it was possible to maintain scavenging costs at a very reasonable figure, the increase in the cost per house being largely due to the purchase of new vehicles.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

This scheme was continued during the year under review, a separate house to house collection being made for all forms of waste materials which had any commercial value and these were subsequently sorted, packed and marketed. The scheme was not confined to the collection of materials defined by Government Orders, but e.g. waste tins are still collected and form a very useful part of the revenue from the scheme.

One vehicle is devoted solely to this work this being implemented by a driver and 3 boys or youths, one of the latter assisting with collection and the two others sorting and packing materials. It will be appreciated that with only one vehicle employed on the work it is not always easy to get round the number of premises to be dealt with within a reasonable period. The amount of salvage collected from the average dwelling house is generally very small, but naturally householders do not like to store materials of this nature on the premises

and collections have to be frequent, or material is wasted. At the inception of the scheme and for some time thereafter collections were made by the scavenging vehicles during the course of their routine work, the materials being stored in specially constructed receptacles carried on the vehicles. This method, in my opinion, obtained more materials from the householders and definitely kept the operational costs much lower.

There is no doubt that, since the cessation of hostilities, public interest in salvage has waned considerably and an increasing quantity of salvage material, particularly paper, is found amongst the ashes. To offset this, however, shops and business premises have been getting larger supplies of paper and packing materials and shop-keepers readily co-operate with the department in saving these, as in normal times this material was graded as trade refuse and generally burned by shop-keepers to avoid being charged for removal. There is a tendency however for the bigger premises, particularly chain-stores, to dispose of their salvage as they can obviously derive a useful income from this source.

School children have proved very helpful, and almost every school in the district collects waste paper which is stored in sacks provided by the department and collected as required. Despite the fact that the school children are rewarded by savings stamps to the value of 3s. 0d. for every cwt. of paper collected in this way, some schools are not displaying the interest in the scheme which it received during the war-time years. The salvage marshalls, who did yeoman service during the war years, have now more or less lost interest and it has not been possible to stimulate this to any useful extent. The method here was for a voluntary worker to supervise part of a street or small group of houses in the vicinity of her own home and to undertake to collect the neighbours' salvage or have it brought to some central point, generally her own yard, the department provided sacks for the storage of this and these were collected by the salvage vehicle the same day. Assistance of this kind considerably helped collection and reduced costs as it did away with the necessity for the vehicle calling at individual houses for, in the majority of cases, a negligible quantity of material.

All salvaged material is sold in the best available markets and during 1947, £564 18s. 10d., was realised from the sale of materials, the total operational cost for collection and disposal of these being £572 7s. 1d., showing a debit of £7 8s. 3d. on the year's working. This compares with an income of £535 0s. 0½d. and an operational cost of £502 8s. 7½d. with a subsequent profit of £32 11s. 5d. for 1946

It has become increasingly difficult to make the salvage scheme self-supporting owing to the reduced amount of material coming in, the fluctuation of the markets, which generally have a down-ward trend, and increased operational costs owing to bigger wages bills. The years working may therefore be considered reasonably satisfactory, particularly having regard to the fact that on every occasion when this has been made available the district has qualified for the Board of Trade bonus for increased paper collection. Moreover the fact should not be overlooked that materials removed as salvage would normally, in any case require to be removed as house refuse. The service therefore acts in a dual capacity and it does, without doubt, meet a very urgent National need and provide some additional local employment.

Income from the various sources is shown on the table hereunder.

	£	s.	d.
From sale of paper and cardboard ...	365	7	6½
From sale of rags and matting ...	27	10	9
From sale of scrap metal and tins ...	99	8	1
From sale of bottles and jars ...	46	17	9
From sale of bones ...	8	9	6½
From sale of non-ferrous metals ...	1	14	6
From sale of baling wire ...	2	5	5
Bonus received ...	13	5	3
	<hr/> £564 18 10 <hr/>		

**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector s Department
during the year 1947.**

I. Public Health Acts.				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses	}	Foul Conditions		2	...	2
and		Structural Def'ts		308	...	257
Schools		Overcrowding		2	...	2
Lodging-houses		...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops		...	...	2	...	2
Cowsheds		...	...	24	...	24
Bakehouses		...	...	1	...	1
Slaughter houses		...	...	1	...	1
Ashpits and Privies		...	...	22	...	21
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		...	...	4	...	4
Water Closets		...	...	15	...	15
Defective Yard Paving		...	...	11	...	9
House	}	Defective Traps		16	...	14
Drainage		No disconnection		...	...	...
		from sewers		...	...	...
		Other Faults		12	...	12
Water Supply		...	...	66	...	66
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	9	...	7
Other Nuisances (Pigsties and animals improperly kept)		...	...	5	...	4
Defective Spouts		...	...	22	...	14
Provision of Dust Bins		...	...	83	...	83
Provision of Scullery Sinks		...	...	8	...	6
Totals	...	...	...	614	...	545

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.**Number****Remarks**

Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... 55
 Samples of Water condemned as unfit for
 use ... 5
 Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...
 Convictions for exposing or selling Un-
 wholesome Food ...
 Samples of Food and Drugs taken for
 Analysis ...
 Samples found Adulterated ...

83 Milk }
 4 Ice Cr }

For advisory
 purposes only.

**III. Precautions against
Infectious Disease.**

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or
 destroyed ... 47
 Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease 42
 Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ...
 Prosecutions for exposure of infected
 persons or things ...
 Convictions for exposure of infected per-
 sons or things ...

108 Houses treated
 for beetles, etc.

IV. General.

Number of New Houses erected during year 66
 Number of such Houses occupied during
 year ... 66
 Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...
 Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets ...
 Ash-closets converted into Water-closets 16
 Total number of Water-closets in District 4103
 Total number of Ash-closets in District... 1262
 Total number of Ashpit-privies in District 17

5 Ash-Closets
 demolished.

Housing.

During 1947 good progress was made towards the provision of houses, 66 houses being erected and completed during the year, and an additional number were in an advanced state of building. Further extensions of the housing schemes were considered and type plans and layouts adopted. Consideration was given to the extension of the existing Peat Carr Estate towards Moorsley to form one community with shops and all necessary services and negotiations were commenced to acquire land for this purpose. An extensive building programme was therefore in operation which made good progress despite the difficulties created by lack of essential supplies and shortage of labour. The Council have from time to time given consideration to implementing their programme of traditional houses by the erection of prefabricated types but have consistently decided against this course being followed. Whilst this type of house does temporarily alleviate the housing problem the cost is out of all proportion to the accommodation provided and there is no doubt also that they will give rise to a serious maintenance problem in the years to come. These facts alone justify the Council's decision, apart from the unsightly appearance which colonies of these buildings present.

Further progress was made with the requisitioning and reconditioning of vacant premises for the purpose of providing additional housing accommodation as permitted under the provisions of Circular 2845 of the Ministry of Health. One house, namely No. 11, Station Road, which was requisitioned in November, 1946, but which was occupied by two families of squatters, received consideration, and the squatters were given notice to quit. In the meantime a scheme was adopted for the conversion of this property into two self-contained flats with bathroom, hot water supply and all amenities. It was not possible to commence with the work however until the premises were vacated. The squatters left at the end of 1947 and the work was commenced at the beginning of January, 1948, the flats subsequently being let to applicants from the Council's own housing lists.

Little trouble was experienced during the year from squatting. One or two attempts were made in this direction but generally the premises selected were in such a dilapidated state that the trespassers left of their own accord. A few of those who originally squatted in September, 1946 still remain and have, generally speaking, made their accommodation comfortable. The firm attitude which the Council have adopted towards squatters has done much to help the situation and further did not involve them in any expenditure of public money for temporary measures taken with regard to sanitation, light, etc.

Towards the end of the year under review, the Council's efforts to establish a direct labour department began to bear fruit, and work was commenced with the erection of houses on an extension to the Prospect site at Easington Lane. The scheme was launched at a period when almost insuperable obstacles with regard to the acquisition of plant and materials had to be overcome, but once the initial difficulties had been met, good progress has been made, and there is every indication that better and cheaper houses will be provided more quickly by this method. The Council further decided during the year to revise the building programme by eliminating a large number of projected A3 type houses, and substituting for them A2 type, although experience still tends to show that an even larger proportion of A2 type might be advisable. The first post war houses were exclusively A3 type, although it was decided to complete a small number of A2 type whose construction was held up by the outbreak of hostilities, and investigations

definitely established that the circumstances of the majority of applicants only justified two bedroomed houses for the accommodation of their families. Despite the fact that high wages are at the present time the rule rather than the exception and it might be felt that most workmen nowadays could afford the current rent of the A3 type house, yet it is found that many applicants for houses display reluctance at paying rent for a house which is larger than their immediate requirements, furthermore, the majority of applicants rarely have sufficient effects and floor coverings to furnish these houses, and, although the position is gradually becoming better, great difficulty is experienced in obtaining more.

It has been possible, owing to the stimulated building programme, to provide accommodation for a number of families living under overcrowded circumstances, 38 families, comprising 170 persons, were dealt with during the year, the majority moving to Council houses, or houses which had been left vacant by prospective Council tenants. The records with regard to overcrowding are kept up-to-date as far as possible, and these make available at any time very complete information with regard to living accommodation available in every working class house in the district. Now that the population is becoming more or less stabilised, this task is much easier, but during the wartime years it was difficult to deal effectively with the overcrowding problem due to the continual movement of the population resulting on calls to National Service, evacuation arrangements, etc., and it has for some years not been possible, or indeed desirable, to enforce the provisions of the Housing Act regarding overcrowding, and consequently a fresh problem, which is daily gaining in magnitude, is created by the marriage of young couples who go to live with one or other of their parents. This is without doubt causing overcrowding, particularly in the Council's housing schemes, and is also in many cases resulting in undue wear and tear on the property, which will, in due course, necessitate expensive repairs.

There is no doubt that a great amount of overcrowding could be eliminated by building smaller houses to accommodate aged couples who have, perforce, at present to occupy houses too large for their needs, and also by the enforcement of exchange between tenants who are occupying houses too large for their families, and others who are occupying small houses, but have large families. This could be readily carried out on the Council's Housing estates, and has, on occasions, been attempted in the past, but the full powers available for use to deal with the situation have never been really utilised. Experience has unfortunately shown that a large number of people living in houses too small for their needs are prepared to put up with the inconvenience, and pay the smaller rent. Having regard to current wages, family allowances, and also the reasonable, and in fact, uneconomic rents of even the largest houses, this attitude should not be tolerated, and it appears desirable for a comprehensive scheme to be formulated, and removals if necessary, enforced. There is no doubt that many tenants would be willing to exchange, but under present day circumstances, when decorating materials are expensive, inferior in quality, and difficult to obtain, they are naturally reluctant to quit a clean house and undertake the task of cleaning and re-decorating another, and generally the tenant with the small family is most penalised in this respect, as they are asked to quit a well kept house to occupy premises which have been overcrowded, and as a result ill-used. The position should be faced, however, and a comprehensive scheme, operated with no dis-

crimination, should clear the situation considerably. To pick on isolated cases for enforcement is obviously unfair, and experience in the past showed that some of the best tenants in the Council houses, who complied with the Council's wishes in the matter, and moved, left exceedingly well-maintained houses, and were faced with the work of cleaning another, whilst a number of tenants who were, to put it mildly, obstructive, have still maintained possession of their houses. An arrangement to give some assistance towards decorating in cases where hardship was proved would appear to be equitable. It is obvious, however, that it is most desirable to eliminate, where possible, all these cases by exchanges, even if it is necessary to enforce them, rather than to build additional houses, and it is felt, moreover, that consideration might be given to offering the new houses to existing tenants who have proved their worth, both as rent payers, and by reason of the manner in which they maintain their houses and their gardens, and to let the influx of new tenants serve a probationary period in the older type of house. There is no doubt that by doing this it would be possible to have housing schemes which would be an asset to the district, and whilst discrimination between tenants may be deprecated, it is, nevertheless, very necessary, and if we have to accommodate undesirable tenants, it is surely good policy to group them where they can be kept under ready observation. The current type of house which the Council are providing is excellent, and compares more than favourably with houses built by private enterprise for sale before the war, in view of the amenities provided, but it is doubtful whether, having regard to the elaborate electric appliances, built in plywood fixtures, and lighter fireplaces, these houses are as robust, or capable of withstanding the wear and tear of careless tenants, as the older types. The provision of a number of built in wardrobes is also an excellent idea, but can present a serious problem if it becomes necessary to rid a house of vermin, and therefore, if expensive maintenance costs are to be avoided, the selection of good tenants is a matter of primary importance. The effects of careless tenants are noticeable in places throughout the housing schemes, particularly in the oldest type of house, where, despite heavy expenditure on maintenance, one finds in places conditions existing which, apart from congestion, present all the aspects of the slum.

Towards the end of 1946, the Department completed investigations into the circumstances of all applicants on the Housing lists, and the information collated was presented to the Council. The investigations showed that 196 applicants no longer required houses, and the final figures showed that the Housing lists, as then existing, could be divided into the following categories, viz:—

Medical grounds cases	...	...	...	...	15
Natural overcrowding	...	...	...	...	107
Created overcrowding	...	...	...	...	135
Applicants occupying houses subject to confirmed Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	34
Applicants occupying insanitary houses (i.e. houses scheduled for clearance in the future	...	...	...	...	85
Sub-tenants living with parents	...	...	...	...	161
Applicants not requiring immediate attention (waiting list)	...	...	...	...	181
TOTAL					718

Since these lists were compiled 376 additional applications have been received 220 of these being from sub-tenants, in the majority of cases young married couples living with their parents.

It is therefore possible, with the figures in hand, to estimate the current housing needs with a degree of accuracy, but unfortunately the lists have a snowball like quality of increasing, as whilst the population has some bearing on the problem, the birth rate more nearly affects the type of house required, and it is the marriage rate which creates the demand for houses. Therefore owing to the continual change in the applicants circumstances, it is necessary to carry out frequent revision of case papers, and almost every applicant, and certainly those who are within a reasonable distance of being offered accommodation, have to be visited frequently, and particulars revised, as the circumstances of each prospective tenant are carefully scrutinised by the Housing Committee, who decide whether they are suitable to be offered accommodation, or not.

At the end of 1947 there were still a good number of families living in bad conditions as a result of the slow progress with re-housing, the majority of these being resident in areas where Clearance Orders were confirmed, and have been in operation for some years, and in other areas which were scheduled for Clearance or Compulsory Purchase prior to the War, but in respect of which Orders were not confirmed owing to the outbreak of hostilities. Having regard to the facts that these properties were considered unfit for human habitation some years ago, and have progressively deteriorated since, one can imagine the circumstances of the unfortunate occupants, but it must also be admitted that in some cases, when it is possible to re-house them, the accommodation to be provided will present a problem, owing to the definite unsuitability of the tenant, both from the point of view of cleanliness and also ability to pay rent. The position has been met, so far as is possible, by moving tenants to better houses in Slum Clearance Areas as they become vacant, but these are few and far between and the time will shortly arise when the task of providing accommodation for the unsuitable section of the slum clearance cases will have to be faced. It is, perhaps, some indication of the dire need for housing accommodation amongst newly married couples, that in every case where a slum clearance house is vacated, however decrepit or unfit the premises may be, the Department is bombarded with applications to be permitted to take over the house, and in some cases applicants have even expressed their willingness to buy the property and do their best to recondition it. There is no doubt that the majority do this with a genuine desire to obtain a home of their own, to get away from the inconveniences and inevitable family quarrels which are part and parcel of the existence of the sub-tenant, but there is a tendency for this type of house to be in demand as a stepping stone to the early occupation of a Council house, and therefore although it is the policy of the Council to make the utmost use of all available accommodation at the present time, it has been found advisable to clear up some of the worst properties by forbidding re-letting.

Every effort is being made to have this type of property maintained in a weathertight condition, and they are constantly being re-inspected for this purpose, but the defects to structure are fundamental, and could not be remedied without extensive reconstruction, and the restrictions with regard to materials and labour which have been experienced in recent years have not made it possible to make

these houses even reasonably fit for human habitation, in fact it is obvious that building resources would be more profitably employed elsewhere, as such an undertaking, even in normal times, would not be an economic proposition. However, the majority of owners have adopted a reasonable attitude towards the requests of the Department for repairs to this type of property, and a good amount of work has been done to keep them reasonably weathertight. This has been possible in recent years, as the owners had a reasonable chance of recovering their expenditure, in view of the fact that the houses were likely to be occupied for some time yet, but as re-housing progresses, the position will change, and a policy of closing down houses as they become vacant, instead of permitting re-occupation, is advocated. Many owners do prefer to demolish their property so soon as it becomes vacant, in order that they may salvage any useful materials before they are stolen. Owing to the present shortage and controls on building material it is found that in the majority of cases houses have only to be empty for a short time before trespassers do serious damage, windows being broken, and woodwork, fireplaces slates, and lead pipe removed or destroyed.

The clearance of sites has always presented a difficulty, even in normal times, owing to the various interpretations given to the law governing the matter, and it is a fact that when owners have already lost their property, in some cases representing their life savings, they are reluctant or unable to meet the expense of having the property demolished, in these days an item of some magnitude. For this reason one welcomed the change of policy on the part of the Council whereby the majority of future Areas would have been dealt with by Compulsory Purchase Orders, this procedure removes the anomaly, and at the same time ensures the speedy redevelopment of the sites. Unfortunately the War supervened before this programme could be put into practice. What almost invariably happens therefore, is that unscrupulous persons have attracted owners with specious offers to demolish property and clear the sites for the sake of the materials they salvage, and generally the result is that as soon as all woodwork and useful material have been got out, the shell is left, and, owing to the ravages of the weather and trespassing children, soon becomes a public danger. The question of right of support also presents a difficulty, as when one house is demolished the party gable between it and the adjoining house is left exposed, often in a damaged and dangerous state, with the ultimate result that many parts of the district where Clearance Areas have been situated constitute an eyesore.

During the year under review the Council took much interest in this question of tidying up the district. Towards the end of 1946 they decided to clear sites situated at the Bog Row Clearance Areas in default of the owners, and this work was carried out by Contractors, and completed early in 1947. An attempt was made to recover the cost of the work from the owners, but in view of the circumstances of the majority of them it was eventually decided to write the cost off. Apart from the before mentioned sites, and the site of six houses at East Rainton which were cleared at the owners expense, it has been possible to obtain a good number of clearances in individual cases, the great difficulty with regard to this type of clearance work being that owing to the houses being constructed of limestone, the material is not in demand for any purpose, not being eminently suitable, even for the penning of roads, and the whole of the debris has to be tipped. The Department were fortunately able to find convenient tips for this

purpose, as in order to conserve the refuse tips, it was not considered advisable to tip debris there.

The District is very fortunately situated with regard to housing sites, a number of sites being available which were acquired before the war, and during the year further sites were examined and arrangements made to purchase, the intention being, wherever possible, to group the houses in fairly large communities, with all services. This arrangement is highly desirable, and it should tend to benefit the amenities of the neighbourhood, and keep administrative costs down. In connection with this also, much time was devoted to exploring the possibilities of giving the Council houses, or at least an experimental group thereof, the benefits of district heating, and it was found that this could be a sound and practicable undertaking, the great obstacle being the inborn prejudice of the tenants, the majority of whom are colliery employees, and therefore obtain their coals as part of their wages. The installation of such a scheme would greatly benefit the amenities of the houses, particularly in this North-eastern climate, and would appreciably lighten the housewives work, furthermore, it would effect a considerable saving in scavenging costs, and it is thought possible that, in view of the wasteful way in which fuel is used in the district, and the abnormally high cinder content of the house refuse, it would be possible to furnish a large proportion of the necessary heat from the house refuse.

Consideration was also given to the establishment of communal homes for aged persons, in the first place aged spinsters or widows. There are already a good number of small houses existing in the district which have been provided by the Council and the Miner's Welfare Associations for the accommodation of aged couples, and these fill a very useful purpose, as they make available a good number of larger houses for the occupation of families, moreover the rents are well within the means of retired workmen. There is no doubt however, that many of these old people are very lonely, especially when one or other of the partners has passed on, and furthermore, one often wonders how they manage to keep alive at all on the meagre rations obtainable with a single ration book, and the physical inability to get out and queue for the small extras which make existence bearable. A home, with communal feeding, supervised by a capable and sympathetic person, and yet with some degree of privacy and facilities for keeping and displaying the small souvenirs so dear to old people, would therefore fill a long felt want, and, although it appears that Housing legislation has not yet recognised this, and such an institution could not be supported entirely out of public funds, there is no doubt that such a project would receive the financial support of the public, workmen's organisations, etc.

Practical difficulties due to the present national situation, and the undoubted need to devote all available energy to expediting the erection of traditional houses, have caused both the District Heating and the Eventide Homes projects to be shelved for the time being, but there is every hope that they will be considered again when more favourable circumstances make it possible to go ahead with these schemes.

As stated before, it can be safely said that the Council now has available sites sufficient to meet the demands of their housing programme for some years, and it is felt that caution should be exercised before saturation point is reached, for it must not be forgotten that it was decided before the war that future Slum Clearance should be

dealt with, wherever possible, by Compulsory Purchase Orders. This was felt desirable owing to the fact that the proposed areas were nearly all abutting on the main thoroughfare through the district, and the redevelopment of these areas was considered vital to preserve amenities, as they will in effect, when redeveloped, be the shop front of the Urban District presented to travellers passing through. Whilst, therefore, the sites available will not provide accommodation for as large a number of houses as those eliminated by the Orders, yet they will appreciably affect the total requirements with regard to sites. Some of the sites in question are not of sufficient depth to accommodate the family type of house, but are very suitable for smaller types for the accommodation of aged persons, eminently so, in fact as old people like to be on the front where they can see what is going on without having to travel far, and also near shops, and the sites in mind fully comply with these requirements. Furthermore the configuration of the land will not in any case make necessary "dead walling" to the houses, thus eliminating steps, a point which is often overlooked in erecting houses of this type.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1947.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:
 - (1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 486
 - (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 1109
 - (2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 16
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 27
 - (3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 21
 - (4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 403
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 343
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	373
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 .

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV — Overcrowding :

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	226
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	384
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	1103
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9
(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	38
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	170
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

The Shops Acts :

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Shops Acts, and shops throughout the district are frequently inspected, visits for this purpose often co-inciding with visits for the inspection of foodstuffs.

The premises are generally found to comply with the requirements of the Acts regarding sanitary accommodation, heating, washing facilities, and other amenities for the wellbeing of persons engaged in or about the premises. A large proportion of the shops are small, the proprietors living on the premises, and no great number of assistants being employed.

It is pleasing to report that no infringements of the Orders governing closing hours, and working hours of the assistants were observed during the year, nor were any complaints regarding infringements received. The curtailed hours made necessary by the black-out during the winter months in war time have been, more or less, adopted as standard now that things have reverted to normal, and the general short supply of goods and labour difficulties have caused the majority of shopkeepers to adopt even shorter opening hours than those prescribed by the Orders, a position which, of course, operates to the benefit of the assistants, but one sometimes wonders whether the convenience of the shopping public has not become a matter of secondary importance.

It was necessary in six cases during the year to serve informal notices requiring improvement or sanitary accommodation etc., at shop premises. These were all complied with.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Camping Sites.

No trouble was experienced during the year with regard to dwellings of this nature, the district having been fortunate for many years in being clear of tents, vans and sheds used for dwelling purposes, nor are there any sites habitually used for camping.

In one isolated case in Easington Lane Ward a family erected a temporary dwelling constructed partly of brick and partly of Anderson shelter sections and occupied it. The building was quite unsuited for the purpose and definitely detrimental to the health of the occupants and they were, therefore, given notice to quit, which they did.

Certain sites are from time to time occupied by showmen as fairgrounds, sometimes for fairly lengthy periods, and such sites are supervised during the time of their occupation and arrangements made for scavenging, etc. No nuisance has been experienced in this direction and the sites have always been left tidy and in a sanitary condition.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The district possesses no public or privately owned swimming baths although such an amenity has been a great need for many years and it was hoped before the war to make some progress with the provision of a swimming bath which could also be used as a public hall. The local Boys' Club had the use of quite a good pool at one time and this proved a great attraction and was generally maintained in a satisfactory sanitary condition. Probably owing to difficulties in upkeep this pool has fallen into disuse during recent years but as it is occasionally used it is kept under observation and periodical samples

of water submitted for bacteriological examination. The results indicated towards the end of the year under review that unless the pool was cleansed its use for this purpose should be discontinued.

Schools.

Schools throughout the area are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition and when inspections are carried out the sanitary conditions found are of a very high standard. It was not necessary during the year to close any school owing to the incidence of infectious diseases and the department is indebted to teachers for their co-operation at all times when enquiries regarding infectious diseases and scabies have been necessary.

Public Houses, Halls and Cinemas.

These premises were systematically inspected during the year at frequent intervals, and, as is necessary in the majority of cases, certificates as to the sanitary conditions found were issued for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions.

The premises have generally been maintained in a good state of repair particularly having regard to the difficulties experienced in getting work done and the fact that dwelling houses must of necessity have priority. Just prior to the outbreak of war all premises of this nature throughout the district were systematically overhauled and in some cases rebuilt, and the work carried out then has helped during the ensuing years. There are two cases still existing however where public houses have no bathroom or hot water supply for the tenants and the sanitary conveniences are not on the water carriage system. These houses have been allowed to get into a bad state of repair owing to the stated intention of the owners to build new premises and transfer the licences, but in view of the fact that new building work of this kind is unlikely to be sanctioned in the present emergency continual pressure is exercised to get improvements carried out to improve the conditions for the time being.

Food Inspection.

All foodstuffs in the shops are inspected regularly and systematically, it being necessary in the course of routine inspection to deal with a large amount of varied commodities during the year under review. The amount of tinned foods coming into the shops has diminished considerably since the cessation of lease-lend. It was found that a large proportion of condemned tinned food was lost due to damage in transit owing to rough handling and inadequate packing, but a great improvement is now observed in the packing and losses due to this cause are less frequent. It was however necessary to condemn as unfit for human consumption a large quantity of tinned foodstuffs, bacon, butter and other perishable commodities. In some cases it was possible by arrangement with the local Food Office to divert commodities to bakehouses or canteens to ensure immediate use.

Particulars of foodstuffs condemned are as follows:—

83 lbs. bacon; 2-18 oz. tins bacon; 80 lbs. butter; 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. cheese; 1-12 oz. tin cheese; 286 lbs. cooked beef; 172 lbs. imported beef; 545 lbs. English beef; 7 lbs. liver sausage; 4-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., 2-4 lb. tins brisket beef; 12-6 lb., 10-1 lb. tins tongue; 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tongue; 3-6 lb., 11-12 oz. tins chopped ham; 30-12 oz. tins meat lunch; 5-6 lb. tins pork luncheon

meat; 5-12 oz. tins minced beef loaf; 3-12 oz. tins ham loaf; 111-16 oz. tins stewed steak; 5-12 oz. tins pork and cereals; 2-2 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs. cornbeef hash; 1-2 lb., 2-27 oz., 6-1 lb., 12-15 oz. tins sausage; 2-32 oz. tins meat and vegetables; 18-1 lb. tins soup; 144 small tins soup; 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 2-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins Grade I salmon; 26-1 lb. tins Grade II salmon; 7-1 lb., 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tins Grade III salmon; 40-15 oz. tins pilchards; 3-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 4-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. tins sardines; 9-8 oz. tins crawfish; 14-14 oz. tins cream of cod; 9-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. tins brislings; 6 doz. fishcakes; 20 lbs. fishcake; 12 rissoles; 2-3 lb., 7-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 29-2 lb. 4 oz., 1-1 lb. 13 oz., 22-size 3 tins tomatoes; 3 casks tomatoes in brine; 7-1 lb. 3 oz., 14-1 lb., 4-15 oz., 4-size 3 tins peas; 6-1 lb. 14 oz., 78-1 lb., 25- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins beans; 8-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 5-1 lb, 2 oz, sliced carrots; 2-16 oz. spaghetti; 1-1 lb. steak and kidney; 1-1 lb. tin boneless chicken; 17-20 fl. oz. grapefruit juice; 15-600 gm. tins orange juice; 9-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 12-1 lb. 14 oz. peaches; 3-1 lb. 14 oz. tins apricots; 3-1 lb. 4 oz. tins plums; 3-1 lb. 14 oz. tins grapefruit; 4-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins fruit salad; 11- 1 lb. tins fruit cocktail; 324-14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins evaporated milk; 36-2 pt. tins full cream milk; 6-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pt. tins full cream milk; 2-2 lb. tins jam; 2-9 oz., 29-5 oz. pkts. dried egg; 17 bottles sauce; 88 loaves bread; 54 cakes; 22 flans; 11-8 oz. pkts. wheat flakes; 23 lbs. rolled oats; 13 doz. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. blocks chocolate; 8 doz. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. blocks chocolate; 4 doz. 2 oz. blocks chocolate; 3 doz. bars chocolate nougat; 3-4 lb. boxes chocolates.

Since the outbreak of war when centralised slaughtering was imposed the local slaughter-houses have fallen into dis-use and therefore apart from the occasional slaughter of pigs which were killed on licence by farmers or smallholders for their own consumption or isolated cases of casualties which required immediate slaughter no food animals were slaughtered in the district. During the war years however it was felt desirable that the local slaughter houses should be maintained in readiness for use to meet any emergency which might arise owing to enemy action and they are therefore still regularly inspected and the requirements regarding the cleansing and maintenance of good sanitary conditions enforced. For this reason licences have been renewed annually as in previous years and for the same reason the licenced slaughtermen on the register were given the opportunity of renewing their slaughtering licences. The majority of men affected availed themselves of this as some are still engaged from time to time in slaughtering at the Central Slaughter-house. In districts such as this however where the amount of central slaughtering is comparatively small, a large proportion of imported meat being used, it is a disturbing fact that consideration should be given to some method for the recruitment and training of additional slaughtermen. There are many young men employed in butchers' shops at present who would in normal times have had an opportunity of training for the trade, but who, owing to their present opportunities cannot be called butchers in the true sense of the work and are definitely not eligible for licencing as slaughter men. This is no doubt the cause of much of the wastage of meat at the present time due to hasty and inefficient dressing of carcasses.

The number of slaughterhouses on the register at the end of 1947 was 15 and the number of slaughtermen holding licences from this authority was 42.

The carcasses of the following food animals were examined during the year and found to be sound, namely:—

70 pigs.

Milk and Dairies.

During 1947 all cow sheds and dairies were subject to routine inspections at frequent intervals and periodical samples of milk were taken from producers and roundsmen of the Milk Pool and submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being generally highly satisfactory and indicating that all the producers in the district are capable of consistently producing milk of accredited standard.

During the year 86 samples were submitted for examination in this way. The number of producers on the register at the end of the year was 12. War-time conditions brought about drastic changes in milk distribution and to save labour and transport the Dairymen's Pool was formed to deal with the distribution of milk throughout the area. This pool absorbed all local retailers and only this organisation and the Co-operative Societies, the latter dealing entirely in pasteurised milk, were retailing in the area. Before the formation of the Association the number of retailers on the register was 18.

The Dairymen's Association had in operation a modern processing plant at Houghton-le-Spring and this made provision for the reception of local milk which was pasteurised, bottled and stored under ideal conditions. Therefore although a small amount of tuberculin tested milk, etc., is distributed, most of the milk now sold by retail in the district is pasteurised. The Dairymen's Association and the Co-operative Society absorb a considerable portion of the milk produced locally but from time to time certain milks have been introduced from outside sources which proved far from satisfactory, particularly in the summer months when complaints regarding the bad keeping qualities of the milk were widespread, there is no reason why such milk should be introduced into a district where large quantities of milk of accredited standard are produced and sent out to pasteurisation plants, and some of this outside milk came from considerable distances and before it reached the consumer was, no doubt, days old. The local Co-operative Society have a modern milk depot with cold chamber in the Hetton Downs area and pasteurised milk in bottles is stored here overnight before delivery. This method of milk storage may be considered ideal. They also have a small secondary depot at Easington Lane which is not equipped with cold storage but is reasonably satisfactory. All milk retailed in the district during the year was delivered in bottles, the sale of loose milk ceasing as soon as the Dairymen's Association plant was able to cope with the bottling, the supply of bottles proving the difficulty in this respect. This is a welcome return to conditions as they existed before the war, the lapse being due in recent years largely to the difficulties experienced in obtaining replacements in bottles. The delivery of milk in sealed containers may be considered an ideal method, as no doubt much contamination can be introduced by the use of inadequately sterilised churns and careless handling during delivery, the results of clean milk production thus being nullified. These remarks however, only apply provided the bottles are adequately cleansed, and adequate cleansing can only be ensured where a modern plant is installed for the purpose and the results are more or less automatic. The demand for bottled milk has in the past forced many small producers who had poor facilities for cleansing bottles to bottle their milk and even during 1947 it was necessary to deal with a number of complaints regarding dirty bottles, some of which had previously been used for various substances more

often than not of an oily nature and which had not been completely removed from the surface of the glass. Experience has proved that milk bottles are suitable for, and have been used for a variety of purposes, some unmentionable, and only thorough cleansing in a properly equipped washing and sterilizing plant can render these bottles safe and fit for use. Therefore, whilst it is appreciated that when the consumer complies with the request to rinse the bottles before returning, the work at the bottle washing depot is considerably eased, yet it is felt that when the bottle is returned with a film of milk on it, the dairyman is at least assured that milk was the last liquid which it contained.

There has been a gratifying tendency during recent years for producers to display increasing interest in milk production, and many farmers have now developed this branch of their work from what was a mere side line to a major interest. The majority of producers have increased the size of their herds with a general improvement in the grade of cattle kept and an increasing number also make use of modern milking machines, the shortage of labour making the use of mechanical milkers a necessity. In the past considerable trouble has been caused by the improper use of milking machines, largely owing to the insufficient sterilization of the parts, the tendency to shorten the process being common as these machines have a large number of rubber parts which are expensive to replace and in short supply, and often, in recent times, manufactured of inferior synthetic material. Such parts rapidly deteriorate when sterilization is efficiently and frequently carried out, and consequently a tendency to shorten the process is natural. Many of the older types of machines were difficult to clean and some had in fact a tendency to introduce dirt into the milk but these have now been eliminated. Owing to labour shortage and the vastly increased amount of land now under cultivation it is very difficult for producers to maintain good results, especially when the dairy business is not sufficiently extensive to maintain a staff solely for milk production. It therefore sometimes happens, particularly in the early morning that dairy technique is very likely to be scamped, and proper supervision of the workers and the stimulation of their interest, enters very largely into the question of whether the results are consistently satisfactory or not. It is found that we have in the Urban district a number of small producers who, whilst they have neither outstanding buildings nor elaborate equipment, are able to consistently produce milk which is well above the standard prescribed for the highest grades of milk, in fact the general indication is that a good standard of dairy technique and cleanliness is being maintained. A great aid to cleanliness, particularly in the early morning during winter months, has been the almost general provision of electric light in the byres, and even the smallest byres now have automatic drinking bowls installed for the use of the cattle.

The establishment of a Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle for the free examination of samples made the work of sampling much less expensive. Samples are taken for purely advisory purposes and no prosecutions were undertaken with regard to the results, in fact none were necessary, as with few exceptions the results indicated that a generally high standard was being maintained. Occasional sub-standard results were due to atmospheric conditions or carelessness on the part of the operatives and when any adverse result was reported

an investigation was carried out with a view to ascertaining the cause of the trouble, with an improvement in milking technique, this being followed up with further samples to check results. Owing to the fact that the vagaries of the weather can seriously affect results, an attempt is always made to take a complete batch of samples from producers throughout the district as closely as possible together to ensure consistent weather conditions.

Ice Cream.

During recent years this commodity has assumed great importance, a position which has arisen owing to the increasing quantity consumed by the public, and the suspicion, which in recent years has been confirmed, of its potentialities as a conveyor of infection. The position was not helped by reason of the fact that an ever growing number of persons have been attracted to the industry by the big profits to be made and many of this type of trader are only interested in the financial aspect of the business. They are therefore satisfied if they can produce something which is acceptable to the public palate and are not concerned as to the safety and food value of the product, nor, in many cases, are they particular with regard to the manner in which it is stored and distributed. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came, therefore, as a welcome step forward in the legislation governing the sale and manufacture of ice cream. The foregoing remarks do not apply to all traders however, and whilst there are in the Urban district only three manufacturers of ice cream, one being at East Rainton, and two at Easington Lane, all three work under hygienic conditions with modern plant, and they will have little difficulty in adapting their installations to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations. They have all decided to continue with the hot mix and not to avail themselves of the ready prepared cold mixes which are on the market for immediate use and which comply with the regulations. This attitude on the part of the manufacturers is welcomed, as it is felt that whilst there is no doubt that these propriety mixes will give a satisfactory product, in full compliance with the regulations, yet there is still a possibility of contamination being introduced in the mixing process, and there is no doubt that a hot mix carried out under satisfactory conditions, with the proper technique, should produce the most satisfactory commodity. A number of small shops who retail ice cream (usually pre-packed) purchased from manufacturers outside the district, are also registered under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and these are generally found on inspection to be well maintained and present no difficulty in supervision. Much more difficulty is experienced with itinerant vendors of ice cream manufactured outside the area, who patrol the district in motor vans. It is virtually impossible to adequately supervise the activities of these individuals or to obtain samples of the ice cream they are retailing. Apart from the health aspect, these vendors also constitute a serious nuisance by persistently sounding motor horns, whistles, etc., in back streets, which is highly undesirable in a district such as this, where a large percentage of the community is employed in the mines and have perforce to take their rest during the day. Four samples of ice cream were taken from manufacturers premises during 1947 and submitted for bacteriological examination and it is gratifying to note that in every case the results indicated that the ice cream was safe and in every respect highly satisfactory.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories, workshops and work places were regularly inspected with a view to ensuring that they complied with the main Act and the various Orders made thereunder. In a number of cases it was necessary to draw attention to the need for lime washing, or cleansing, ventilation facilities, or the drainage of floors, and in three cases, owners were asked to provide additional closet accommodation when this was insufficient or not adequately separated for sexes. The following tables give particulars of inspection carried out by the Department in this respect and the results thereof:—

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecuted Occupiers
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	21	8	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	31	37	11	...
(b) Others	2	2	...	...
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	...	...
Total	54	65	19	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	11	11	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	..	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	2	2	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	1	1	...	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors(S6)	5	5	..	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :				
Insufficient ...	5	5	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	2	2	...	..
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Homework) ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	27	27	...	...

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year under review there were seven retail bake houses established in the district. These were periodically inspected and it was found that a generally satisfactory standard of cleanliness was being maintained. Very little bread is baked in the district nowadays, majority of retailers being supplied by factory bakehouses, operating outside the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin.

During the year under review it was necessary to take action for the eradication of bed bugs and other vermin in the under mentioned premises.

(a) Council Houses . . .	79.
(b) Private Houses . . .	29.

The infestation in the majority of cases, was with beetles, many of the premises having been treated before, but requiring periodical re-treatment. When this pest becomes established in old houses complete clearance is very rare, and reinfestation occurs with the seasonal changes. Infestation by beetles was successfully dealt with by treatment with a powder which contained D.D.T. The latter chemical has a latent effect, and therefore, if satisfactorily applied in the case of liquid, or in the case of powder if blown well into crevices and not disturbed by the householder, can be effective some months after the first application. It is best used with the old type of insecticide, the effect of which is rapid in action with considerable powers of penetration, but, owing to its volatile nature, evaporated fairly rapidly, with no lasting effect. The combination of the two provides a very reliable treatment for almost any form of vermin, but the use of such chemicals requires considerable care and experience on the part of the operator, otherwise staining and damage to decoration and furniture may occur. This may not be entirely the fault of the operator, as many of the cheaper grades of paints and varnishes used by house-holders nowadays are soluble or easily damaged by solutions. Despite this risk the department had no claims with regard to damage during the year under review.

Infestation by bugs were dealt with by spraying with an approved insecticide, the premises affected being treated on three occasions, firstly by fumigation, to eradicate as far as possible existing vermin, and to make premises reasonably fit for householders or workmen to proceed with stripping the walls (in one or two cases it was also necessary to remove skirtings, architraves, picture rails, etc.), on the second occasion to kill vermin which had subsequently incubated, and a final treatment to ensure positive eradication. The whole course of treatment is generally spread over three weeks, but it is impressed upon the householders that even following this treatment there is no certainty that the premises are cleared, especially when operations are carried out in cold weather, when the pests are dormant, and hidden deep in crevices in the wall. The tenant is therefore, expected to make every effort to prevent reinfestation and is instructed accordingly, and subsequent visits are made to ensure that reinfestation has not occurred. It is found from, many years experience, that the greatest cause of infestation, and this may occur in the cleanest house, is the importation

of second hand furniture, in particular, upholstered articles and old pictures, into the household. Owing to the shortage of furniture and the high prices thereof, many householders are more or less forced to furnish from the sale rooms, and their purchases if infested, even only to a minor extent, can quickly cause serious infestation, and unfortunately eradication of vermin in these circumstances, is very difficult, without causing damage to the article affected, in fact the only really effective treatment is to burn them. Although not so prevalent as in the past, even nowadays, one still finds tolerance towards infestation by bed bugs, and no doubt many householders who are infested, perhaps only to a minor extent, never complain. For this reason, very great care should be exercised when dealing with prospective tenants for Council houses, or there is a possibility of new property becoming infested which fact unfortunately is sometimes only discovered when the tenant moves.

At the present time the work of disinfection is made somewhat easier by the shortage of wall paper, and it is found that distempered walls only have to be dealt with. Positive results are never certain on papered walls, particularly where this covers dilapidated and perished wall plaster, and much work in stripping walls is, therefore, necessary to ensure positive eradication of vermin. The work of disinfection would be considerably eased if woodwork was, as far as possible, eliminated from the interior furnishings, the current practice of using ceiling board for ceilings, invariably with open joints covered with laths or tapes between panels, and finished with scotia moulding round the joint between wall and ceiling, provides excellent lodgment for vermin, particularly after shrinkage takes place, and experience seems to show that some types of ceiling board definitely encourage vermin. The practice of providing cupboards in any available space, while beneficial in many respects, may also create a problem where houses become infested, particularly if the cupboards are not soundly constructed, and of course the position peculiar to colliery districts such as this caused by the movement of buildings owing to colliery subsidence leaving cracks and fissures in the walls introduces further difficulties into the work.

Rodent Control.

During 1947 work was continued by the Health Department with the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Order, your Surveyor's Department dealing with the sewers, and the Health Department with dwelling houses, business premises, and refuse tips, etc., 87 complaints of rat and mice infestation were investigated and dealt with, in some cases it was necessary to carry out extensive work in this connection. The district was again made the subject of a comprehensive survey, this work being carried out under a considerable handicap during the first three months of the year owing to the prevalence of snow. No charge was made to householders for the work carried out, but a charge was made for the work executed at business premises. The greater part of the cost of the scheme was recovered by Government Grant, which was made with the approval of the Ministry of Food. The Council's own premises, refuse tips, etc., were systematically treated when necessary, the cost of this work falling upon the local authority.

Very wide publicity has been given to rodent control, and complaints were invited, yet the number of complaints received were not, in view of this, very great. They were all dealt with, and there is very definite indication that the vermin population of the district is considerably reduced, and there is every hope that if a systematic treatment in this way is continued, it should be possible to almost eliminate the pests, and keep the population at a low level which would be dealt with in future years by a comparatively small maintenance treatment. The prospect of this happening, however, is much brighter with regard to rats than to mice, the latter will not readily take poison and are difficult to trap, and are, moreover, more or less tolerated by many householders without complaint.

The poisons generally in use are zinc phosphide, arsenic and red squills. Although barium carbonate has been used it is found that the results are neither consistent nor effective and as more potent poisons are readily available the use of barium carbonate has been discontinued. Zinc phosphide is the most used poison and it is readily taken and very lethal. It is found, however, that when householders have been using one or other of the propriety makes of rat poison (which generally contain zinc phosphide) before calling in the department, the rodents have become shy of this poison, and in these cases it is necessary to use arsenic, but only where there is no possibility of people or domestic animals getting access to the poison. Therefore, where poisoning is carried out under these circumstances every possibility of accident is guarded against by the use of special bait boxes, although the use of these is avoided wherever possible, as it takes a considerably longer time to get the rodents to take bait where this method is used. We therefore find it advisable where live stock is kept, to use Red Squills, as, should this poison be taken by domestic animals, no lasting harmful effect should result. The Council is covered by insurance against any claims for accidents and the Company concerned very thoroughly investigated the methods used before undertaking the risk, but no claim has yet had to be met.

Trapping is frequently resorted to, particularly where mice are concerned, as these are extremely poison-shy and very good results have been obtained by the use of sticky baits made up for trapping mice, these have also proved useful for trapping the isolated outcast rat which is generally too experienced to take poison bait. When the weather conditions and the site made it possible, gassing was carried out with "Cymag" gas, this method proving very effective, particularly on the refuse tips, where burrows are fairly extensive, but it has to be used with extreme caution, as the gas is highly dangerous both to human beings and animals.

Colliery Spoil Heaps.

The department devoted considerable attention to the condition of the Colliery Spoil Heaps in the district, with a view to the abatement of the nuisance arising from fumes where heaps were burning. This has, of course been a long standing nuisance which was mitigated to some extent during the war years, as the black out regulations made it necessary for the Colliery Company to constantly employ a number of men for the purpose of keeping the seats of the fire covered and under control.

The work then done was undoubtedly the means of restricting the spread of the fire, but did nothing to remove the cause of the trouble, and there is no doubt that these precautions have been considerably relaxed since the cessation of hostilities. There are three pit heaps in the Urban area, these being situated at Eppleton Colliery, Elemore Colliery and another heap at Nicholson's pit which until recent years was disused, but which has come into use again owing to the installation of a by-product works on the site. The heap at Eppleton has been kept fairly well under control by the application of water, but the position here goes more deeply than the mere abatement of the nuisance as it is quite obvious that this heap has become of such a size, and is moreover situated over-hanging a good number of dwelling houses in the Hetton Downs Ward, that serious consideration should be given to finding another site for the refuse, or preferably, to follow continental methods and leave this below ground. The heap at Elemore Colliery gives rise to some nuisance, and the method in use for controlling the fire was definitely ineffective. The dry cleaner here was found, owing to its condition, to be giving rise to a nuisance from dust, in dwelling houses situated within a considerable radius of the Colliery. Steps have been taken for the abatement of these nuisances, primarily, by the installation of an adequate water supply to the heaps, and the erection of sufficient, and proper apparatus for spraying. The Department is very much indebted to Mr. C. Bride, Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Health, for the very great assistance and useful technical advice, which he has given with regard to this problem.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 1947 some 510 cases of infectious diseases, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. This shows an increase on the figure for 1946—which was 372. There were 338 cases of measles and 66 of whooping cough, as compared with 169 measles and 83 whooping cough in 1946.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 18 cases of Scarlet Fever in the district compared with 19 in 1946.

Of these 18 were isolated in hospital. The district is not particularly suitable for home nursing of such infectious diseases since in many cases it is completely impossible to give a sick person a bedroom to his or herself. For the same reason it has been found impracticable to shorten the duration of stay in hospital since the patient cannot be guaranteed a separate bed, etc., on discharge. Return cases are practically unknown when patients are isolated for five weeks, but more frequently occurred when the stay in hospital was shortened, or if the patient was released early when nursed at home.

The case incidence for the district is 0.95 per 1000 population, and that for England and Wales being 1.37.

The case incidence for the various wards is 0.97 Hetton, 1.09 Hetton Downs, 0.88 Easington Lane, and 0.90 for Moorsley and Rainton, each per 1000 population.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1947 as compared with 4 cases in 1946.

Antitoxin is supplied free to doctors for use in their practices, and advantage is taken of this service, since it is frequently given in cases of doubt whilst waiting for the bacteriological report. It may be obtained at the Health Department.

The County Council pay for the examination of swabs which are sent by medical practitioners to the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was nil as compared with 0.13 for England and Wales.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In the year under consideration in this report (1947) 159 children under 5 years and 105 between 5 and 15 years were treated, the position at the 31st December, 1947, being that approximately 28.8 per cent. of children under 5 years and 46.6 per cent. of those between 5 and 15 years had received treatment. At end of year 2796 children were immunised giving 56.95%.

387 children received a reinforcing injection. It is now definitely recognised that immunity begins to wane through time and it is desirable that children who have previously been treated should have at least a single injection any time three years after the first treatment.

At the beginning of the year under consideration the County Council along with other authorities responsible for Child Welfare undertook Immunisation of children under five years of age where this was desired by the parents. The parents were still allowed the choice as to whether they preferred the Child Welfare Officer or their own Medical Practitioner to perform the treatment, and we are of the opinion that this has to some little extent increased the number of children under five who are being protected against diphtheria. The number however, 28.8% is still far from satisfactory and it is highly desirable that this should be raised to 75% at least of children.

The extent of propaganda on Diphtheria Immunisation carried out by the Ministry of Health and Local Authorities throughout the Country during the past two or three years has been definitely reflected in the increasing numbers of children who are being protected and the effect of this is undoubtedly shown in the considerable decrease in cases both nationally and locally.

No effort should be spared by any whose advice is sought in recommending the immunisation of children under 15 years

of age in order that the incidence and mortality of this terrible disease may be kept to a minimum.

Influenza.

Mild cases were fairly numerous, as usual, at the beginning and end of the year. No deaths were certified as being due to this cause.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

No local action has been taken in the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infection has been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified showed a decrease, there being 31 cases notified during 1947, as against 51 in 1946. The number of cases of erysipelas notified showed an increase, there being 13 cases notified in 1947 as against 4 in 1946. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

There were 5 deaths directly due to pneumonia and some in which it was a contributory cause.

Infantile Paralysis.

Unfortunately, in common with many parts of the country, there were a number of cases of Infantile Paralysis in the area, seven cases in all being notified during the months of July and August. One, a girl of ten years, died; the others all made satisfactory progress.

Search through the records for the past 25 years fails to show any previous notification of this disease.

In no case could any direct contact of one patient with any other be proved.

Notifiable Disease during the year 1947.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1947.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	18	18	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	3	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	31	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	13	1	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	...	4	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	6	2	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	1	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	3	3	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	1	1	...
Measles	...	...	...	338	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	66	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	484	29	6

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1947 —Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.
	At Ages—Years												Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington L.	M'sley & R'ton	Total			
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over								
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1	4	9	3	1	...	...	...	18	5	6	5	2	18	0.05
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	4	4	5	2	3	1	...	1	4	2	3	2	31	5	8	16	2	31	1.63	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	7	1	13	4	3	6	...	13	0.68
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	1	3	...	...	9	4	2	1	2	9	0.47
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	2	2	...	10	2	5	3	...	10	0.52
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	2	0.10
Tuberculosis } Female	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	5	2	1	1	1	5	0.26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	2	2	4	0.21
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	1	1	2	6	0.31
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	0.05
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	1	3	0.15
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	23	35	35	51	48	138	7	...	1	...	...	...	338	90	92	150	6	338	17.86
Whooping Cough	6	6	5	17	11	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	24	20	12	10	66	3.48
Totals	38	48	46	72	66	169	17	13	12	14	12	3	510	142	139	200	29	510	27.08	

New Cases of Mortality during 1947.

19 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 9 males and 10 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 7 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 2 males and 5 females. In 1946 there were 26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being 12 males and 14 females, and 7 cases of non-pulmonary forms, being 4 males and 3 females, notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1947 according to sex and ward

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Hetton ...	4	2	1	2	9
Hetton Downs	2	5	—	1	8
Eas. Lane ...	1	3	—	1	5
Moorsley & Rainton	2	—	1	1	4
Totals ...	9	10	2	5	26

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred, as compiled from local statistics.

Age Period		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	„	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2—3	„	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	„	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4—5	„	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	„	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	„	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	„	3	3	1	1	—	3	—	1
25—35	„	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
35—45	„	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—65	„	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
65 and over	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	...	9	10	2	5	3	8	1	2

The following table shows the number of new notifications of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the years 1838-1947, inclusive.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis						Non-Fulmonary Tuberculosis						Total	
	M.		F.		Total		M.		F.		Total		All Forms	
1938	...	9	...	2	...	11	...	6	...	9	...	15	...	26
1939	...	5	...	5	...	10	...	3	...	1	...	4	...	14
1940	...	7	...	7	...	14	...	3	...	6	...	9	...	23
1941	...	11	...	10	...	21	...	8	...	4	...	12	...	33
1942	...	8	...	5	...	13	...	3	...	5	...	8	...	21
1943	...	12	...	9	...	21	...	5	...	8	...	13	...	34
1944	...	6	...	9	...	15	...	4	...	6	...	10	...	25
1945	...	9	...	4	...	13	...	3	...	2	...	5	...	18
1946	...	12	...	14	...	26	...	4	...	3	...	7	...	33
1947	...	9	...	10	...	19	...	2	...	5	...	7	...	26

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

3 glands of neck, 1 peripheral glands, 1 ankle joint, 1 peritonitis, 1 meningitis.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

